

AMUSEMENTS.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—One of the most delightful and successful operas of the season was *Fra Diavolo*, last evening. Auber's opera was well written in French. They have all the spirit of the French style, but the subject of *Fra Diavolo* being essentially Italian, it has made an admirable opera buff. Mazzolini, as *Fra Diavolo*, sang with his usual admirable method; his voice was not in very good order until the second act of the opera.

Heroic opera suits his voice and style best, still he was a most satisfactory artist, so that all felt sorry for the needless justice heaped on him at the end. Miss Kellogg has acquired great stage success, and with much intelligence and grace. Her voice, of course, is thin, but her execution and style are both excellent. She was quite charming as *Zerlina*. Both she and the tenor were honored in the aria "Guardate mia rocca," as was also Mazzolini. M'vico Fischer, who was *Lord Alcazar*, has really no voice at all. She is perfectly inaudible.

The brigands were capital—full of characteristic fun; but the pain of the evening came to Signor Bellini, who took *Lord Alcazar*, and kept the house in a roar by his grotesque representation of a "Millionaire." His jealous frenzy, his stolid stupidity, and his concert were delightful. No one would have suspected the artistic Bellini of such comic talent, though the Italians are capital buff actors. The audience appeared to enjoy excessively the well-known music. Despite all the progress of music, the public will always prefer melody to harmony, and love best the opera "that has much in it."

This evening *Ernani* will be given—Verdi's great dramatic work, of which the music is well known and can therefore be appreciated by all. Signora Carozzi Zucchi is seen and heard here to perfection. The power of her voice, its intense sympathetic quality, are both admirably displayed. Her impassioned and grand setting rank her amongst the great artists of the day. Bellini is the grandest "Carlo Quinto" we have seen. The opera will be one of the most admirable and complete of the season.

WALNUT STREET THEATRE.—This evening Mr. Barton Hill takes a benefit, playing his finely artistic part of "Caleb Plummer," in *Dot*. This artist is one of the most refined and talented actors we have. It will be his last appearance but one. *Fant*, with Mr. Roberts as "Mephistopheles," commences the performances.

NEW CHESTNUT STREET THEATRE.—The *Sleeping Beauty*, with its magnificent last scene, still draws crowds. It will be given this evening, and as a matinee on Saturday.

ARCH STREET THEATRE—Lost in London, for the benefit of Mrs. Drew.

NEW AMERICAN THEATRE.—The fancy pantomime of "Dame Trot and her Comical Cat" is drawing good houses at this popular place of amusement. The equestrian and acrobatic feats in the ring are of a highly interesting character, and call out manifestations of applause upon every occasion. One of the attractions here is the finely trained horse "General Grant," introduced by Professor Howes, whose exquisitely beautiful movements are the theme of general praise.

NEW PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM.—The Siamese Twins are still on exhibition at this place on Market street, below Ninth. They are certainly wonders and worth inspection. The Australian Children are also on exhibition at the same place.

HELLER.—This agreeable magician, painter, and pianist is still drawing good houses to Concert Hall. He is skilful both in his neoromantic and instrumental performances. His rendition of variations upon the theme of "The Last Rose of Summer" are beautifully rendered, and prove his ability both as a performer and a composer.

THE PANTOON PHILOSOPHER.—Josh Billings, the eccentric individual who made so much reputation a few weeks ago in his lecture before the Press Club, will deliver a lecture at the Assembly Buildings, on Saturday and Monday evenings. Josh is the funniest man living. If any doubts it, go and see.

"JAMES PIERCE"—The humorist and orator, Stephen Massett, will meet the great public this evening at the Assembly Buildings, and deliver himself of his oddities. The people who desire to laugh and enjoy themselves should "Droit Around."

Governor Brownlow Again at the Editorial Desk.

Governor Brownlow went to his home in Knoxville to eat his Christmas turkey, and amused the leisure of a holiday week by writing a whole number of his paper, the Knoxville *Whig*. Here are some spicy extracts:—

THE SNEED AND CROZIER PROPERTY.

"Some men having a deep concern for the notorious and unrelenting Rebels named Sneed and Crozier, indulged in words against the undersigned for recovering and holding their property in a damage suit. For a man knowing all the facts in the case, and censuring me, I have no more regard for him than for any other malicious villain. And for the information of those not posted, I will give facts. These two men advised my arrest and imprisonment, and had me thrown into jail in the dead of winter—going in with a good constitution, and coming out with it broken down, after a confinement for three months and a third. I proved on the trial, by testimony from their own side of the question, that they held meetings in Ramsey's law office, after I was incarcerated, and decided whether to hang me, send me to a Southern prison, to be held during the war, or turn me out and let me be disposed of by Rebel soldiers, several thousand of whom were here asking that I be turned over to them. Several of the ruffians in guarding the jail fired at the windows, and Sneed claimed that their muskets went off by accident. When I was arrested by that thief and scoundrel, Fox, their Confederate jailor, and was marched through the streets to prison, Sneed and Crozier excited, and approved the act. I propose to make them laugh the other side of their mouths before I am done with them. I owned in my own right \$12,000 of the issue of the Bank of East Tennessee, and was the only man in the country covered in both the Chancery and Supreme Courts, and got an order for sale, and hold the bank property for my benefit. After I was banished from the country, Crozier made a motion in court to have the money deposited by the Clerk and Master in the branch of the Bank of Tennessee of which his brother-in-law was President.

"When General Burside came in, Dr. Ramsey, the President, and South, taking my money with him. And I might as well tell him my claim on a jay-bird as on him or his securities. I shall, therefore, pursue Sneed and Crozier to the end of the law, and in their absence those who represent them. I will teach them what it is to imprison me for opinions sake, rob me of my moderate effects, and then drive my family out of the country. Meanwhile, I don't want the good opinion of those who are in sympathy with them, and will try to conduct myself as not to be burdened with their praise!"

A REBEL EDITOR.

"The notorious J. A. Sperry, editor and publisher of the Knoxville *Register*, was brought before the Federal court last week and discharged, as a gentleman tells us, on the ground that there was no charge against him. This man has edited and published, until Burside came in, one of the most reasonable sheets that ever vilified the Federal Government and persecuted Union men in this or any other State. Every cowardly writer and vindictive blackguard that chose to abuse the Government, and slander loyal men, would do so through the *Register*, and Sperry would rather write articles as editorials of his own. The result was that a constant fire was kept up against the Government,

the Union, and the brave East Tennesseans who crossed the mountains and joined the army. The hanging and imprisonment of Union men was advocated and justified, both by Sperry and his wretched cowardly and unprincipled contributors. If the court have notice against this Rebel beast, and he will remain long enough in East Tennessee to let the hundreds that he has abused and injured know that he is at liberty, he will find individuals who have much against him."

"THE 'WHIG' NOT 'A SOFT SHELL PAPER.'" Brownlow is a "hard shell." He says "those who desire to lay before the people apologies for traitors and an excuse for treason would do well to pass our *Whig* by and select some soft shell paper," and adds:—

"We doubt the policy, at least for a few years to come, of appropriating large sums of money for foreign missions. The war has demoralized our whole country, and our best portions of territory are overrun with thieves and cutthroats, who need reform even more than the heathen masses of China, Japan, or Persia. Many of the Protestant preachers, especially in the South, ought to have pious missionaries among them, to convince them of the sin of lying, swearing, and drunkenness. Let us use our funds at home, until our own people are reformed, and we will appreciate our calls for help for the degraded worshippers of idols in foreign lands."

A Ringing Speech by John Bright.

THE UNFRANCHISED CLASSES OF THE ENGLISH PEOPLE. In the course of a speech recently delivered at Birmingham, England, John Bright drew this picture of the English poor who are denied the right of suffrage. His allusions to the treatment he has received from the Tory press of England are amusing:—

"Let us now for a moment (said Mr. Bright) cast our eye over this country, after the many great and useful changes that have been made during the last thirty years. There remain, as I said, five millions of families who are entirely unrepresented in the House of Commons, and are drunkards. There are amongst them one million—considerably more than a million, I believe, in the United Kingdom—of those who are classed in the unfortunate list of paupers. There are at least a million who are not above the pauper—always in peril lest they themselves should become paupers. Their condition and their prospects are no more favorable than that. Then, look at the ignorance of the lower strata of the nation, the nation, look at their poverty, their sufferings, their utter hopelessness of good. Why, in the American Southern States, during the reign of slavery, every negro had an idea that there was a day of jubilee for him. 'Yes,' they used to say, 'the Lord will come and deliver us.' But in this class, this lowest strata of the population of your country, I venture to say there is neither belief in anything better for them, nor scarcely is there any aspiration after it."

"Have you read the paragraphs recently in the papers about John Crose, the Dorsetshire laborer? John Crose was a respectable laborer. He worked six days a week. He had an excellent character from his employer, under whom he had worked for twenty-four years, at the rate of 8s. a week. (Applause and cries of "Shame.") Now, this is a curious arrangement, for there is an old saying that 'where mouths come, meat comes.' But John Crose has a family of seven children, I think, and one of them has arrived very recently. To provide fire in his hotel—the Englishman's castle—(laughter)—for his feeble wife and infant child, he took—legally, I believe, he stole—a wooden handle of the value of 8d.; and for that he was tried before the magistrates and sentenced to twenty-one days' or a fortnight's imprisonment. I am not defending stealing; but I do not think certain newspapers will say that I am. (Laughter.) I am not even defending the man who stole the property of the man; I would speak evil of dignitaries. (Laughter.)

"But I venture to tell you that John Crose, the Dorsetshire laborer, may be found in thousands in various parts of the country, and especially in your southern counties, and that if you will raise the wages from 8s. to 10s. you will find scores of thousands, with that difference, in the position of John Crose; you will find hundreds of thousands whose condition is such that, if hitherto the most anxious investigation has been unable to solve the mystery as to how they keep body and soul together. (Cheers.) Cast your eye, I say, over this city and see these five millions of families, and the desperate condition of the lowest strata of them. Is it not true that this unfranchised nation may be said to toil, and toil, and almost know no rest? Compare it with the ruling class; to divide the property of the rich, and squander it amongst the poor. They said, you know, that I wanted to take the lands of the rich and divide them amongst the poor. But compare that class, that great nation, the toiling and unfranchised nation, with the section which may be said to be the governing class in this country."

"Look at this wealth, this ostentation, this luxury—behold this weariness—for there is even weariness amongst them, but it is the weariness of the rich, and not the weariness of the poor. But that great nation of whom I have spoken—that great nation which has built up the power of this country—this unfranchised people, wofully whom England could be but a province, which a single division of a continental army might subdue and annex—that great nation of five millions of families is utterly excluded from any share in political power in this country, and that small section of whom I have spoken, containing a vast proportion of excellent persons, is potentially the governing power in this realm.—(Loud cheers.)

"Let me now put to you, before I sit down, a single proposition, and through these gentlemen who sit below me, to whom freedom in this country is so greatly and so constantly indebted—(applause)—let me put it to the people of this kingdom, if of the five millions who are now slaves, out of one million were admitted, and you will mark the extreme, some will say blamable, moderation of that suggestion—if only one million were admitted, would not the cry of the toiling and the suffering, which even now ascends to Heaven, when it is not, think you, reach further, be heard even on the floor of Parliament? For do not forget that the ear of the Supreme is nearer even to the lowliest of us than is that of our earthly rulers. (Cheers.) But if that one million were admitted, would not perchance, do something to still the roar of faction, and to bend the powers of statesmanship to the high and holy purposes of humanity and of justice?"

"I speak not the language of party. I feel myself above the level of party. (Great and continued cheering.) I speak as I have ever endeavored to speak on behalf of the unfranchised, the almost voiceless, millions of my countrymen. The result is just, and I am confident, it will be heard, it cannot be rejected. (Cheers.) To the outward eye monarchs and parliaments seem to rule with an absolute and unquestioned sway; but, and I quote the words which one of our old Puritan poets has left for us:—

"Here is on earth a yet surer thing, Vexed though it be, than Parliaments or King."

"That anguisher thing is the tribunal which God has set up in the consciences of men. If it be fore that tribunal the King, and the permitted humbly plead, and there is something in my heart—a small but an exultant voice—which tells me I shall not plead in vain."

—At Darmstadt the nautico-scenic problem of the ship scene in *L'Africaine* is solved by hanging the ship cradlewise, whereby she rolls vigorously and independently, and goes through the several stages of the storm and the wreck.

—Handel's *Semée* is attracting the attention of the musical antiquarians of London. It is quite unknown here. Among its leading features is an air, "O sleep," said to be equal to the "He was despised" of the *Messiah*; a bravura bird song, and a mirror song. "Myself I shall adore." The recitatives are wrought in Handel's most elaborate manner.

THE PITTSBURG CONDEMNED FELONS.

Treatment and Spiritual Condition of Mrs. Grindler and Others.

Through the kindness of Jailer White we were yesterday permitted to visit the cells of the condemned three who are to be executed on the 12th and 13th of this month. The cells are clean and comfortable, and the inmates look well, though somewhat downcast.

The appearance of Marshall is about the same as when on trial. He spends the most of his time in reading his prayer-book and in conversation with the priest who has daily access to him, and from whom it is hoped he derives consolation. He still maintains a dogged mood, and his face bears a sullen aspect. He says that, had he succeeded in escaping detection, he would have taken Frocko with him. Knowing that all hope for mercy or pardon is now beyond his reach, he seems to have sunk into a moody silence.

The second of these criminals, Frocko, appears to the casual observer to be the least guilty of the two. He still asserts his innocence, and says Marshall promised to clear him long ago, and the fact of his not having done so worries him continually. He has the benefit of religious consolation, a clergyman visiting him daily. But, like Marshall, he seems resigned to a fate which he cannot avert. The actions and conversation of this man would seem to indicate his innocence. He receives his food in silence, and eats but little, often allowing it to remain unaltered from one meal to another.

The third culprit, Mrs. Grindler, who will expire her crime upon the 12th, is confined in a cell above the others. She is still weak, and remains in bed the greater part of the time. She seems to care for nothing but morphine and opium, and uses all that she can procure. She, like others, has the benefit of a clergyman, and says that she derives great consolation from his visits. Her cell is neat and clean, and she has been allowed the companionship of one of the other female prisoners, whom she keeps by her constantly. There is nothing sullen or morose in Mrs. Grindler; on the contrary, she is rather cheerful, and converses with all who may visit her. Her cell has rather more the appearance of comfort than that of the men, although all are clean and warm. Such is the present condition of these unhappy beings, who are to give up their lives to justice on the 12th and 13th of the present month.

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